

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method of treating stuttering, the method comprising:
receiving sound with a bone conducting hearing aid apparatus attached to a skull bone of a user, wherein the sound is preferentially received from a direction forward of the user while suppressing reception of sound from directions other than the direction forward of the user;
processing the sound to amplify the sound and feed back to the user a voice of the user without amplifying and feeding back to the user sound from surrounding sources; and
mechanically transmitting the processed sound to both inner ears of the user via the skull bone with a tactile component comprising a vibrator.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the processed sound is transmitted directly into the skull bone.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the processed sound is transmitted into the skull bone through a skin layer.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
adjusting frequency characteristics of the hearing aid apparatus.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
delaying feedback of the voice of the user.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
suppressing sound from other directions than a forward direction in front of the user.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:
adjusting the delay.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
shifting a frequency of the voice of the user fed back to the user.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
transmitting to each inner ear of the user sound information having different frequency
characteristics.

21. (new) A device for treating and reducing stuttering with auditory feedback, the
device comprising:

a bone conducting hearing aid apparatus arranged to be attached to a skull bone of a user
with a stuttering problem so that an ear canal of the user is left free, the bone conducting hearing
aid comprising a forward-directed directional microphone to suppress sound from directions
other than a direction forward of the user, the bone conducting hearing aid configured to receive

sound and to carry out signal processing on the sound to amplify and feed back to the user a voice of the user and not amplify and feed back to the user sound from surrounding sources; and
a tactile component comprising a vibrator from which the processed sound is mechanically transmitted to both inner ears of the user via the skull bone.

22. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a skin penetrating member, wherein the apparatus is arranged to be mechanically anchored directly into the skull bone by osseointegration so that vibrations from the vibrator are transmitted directly into the skull bone.

23. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein the apparatus is arranged to be mechanically anchored to the skull bone via the skin so that the vibrations from the vibrator are transmitted into the skull bone through the skin layer.

24. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein frequency characteristics of the apparatus are adjustable.

25. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a delay circuit configured to delay feedback of the voice of the user.

26. (new) The device according to claim 25, wherein the delay circuit is adjustable.

27. (new) The device according to claim 25, further comprising:

a frequency shifting circuit configured to shift a frequency of the voice of the user fed back to the user.

28. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a directional microphone directed in a forward direction in front of the user in order to suppress sound from other directions with respect to the user than the forward direction.

29. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a frequency shifting circuit configured to shift a frequency of the voice of the user fed back to the user.

30. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein each inner ear of the user receives sound information having different frequency characteristics.